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The Central Florida Future

Vol. 27 • No. 34

Serving the University of Central Florida since 1968

Jan. 17, 1995

This professor stinks: Do student evaluations make any difference?

□ How much attention student feedback receives often depends on the college.

by OMAR DAJANI
Staff writer

Remember those professor evaluations you are asked to fill out at the end of each semester that you think are a waste of time? Well, the UCF faculty wants you to know that, contrary to popular opinion, those evaluations have a significant impact on the total picture of a professor's teaching performance.

Although the relative weight given to student evaluations depends on the deans and chairs of each college, they are becoming more important as students' demands increase and as competition for professorship expands.

The process of assessing the student evaluations begins at the Computer Center, which generates several reports. One report gives the average score of all

courses in each department. Another compares the average scores of each department in a college. Beyond that, a dean may request a variety of summaries and averages depending on what is being assessed. As for the average score of an individual class, it is generally up to the professor to choose which class evaluation will be submitted to the chairman.

Every May, department chairs meet with professors to evaluate their performance on teaching and research. According to Dr. Richard Huseman, dean of the College of Business Administration, "Student input is probably the most important part of evaluating teaching effectiveness." Huseman has asked his chairs to look not only at the average scores but also on the back side of every evaluation. There students are asked to write what they liked most and least about the course, as well as suggestions for improvement in content and teaching. Additionally, Huseman requests a variety of summaries which include

see EVALUATIONS, page 5

Home team cheering...



photo/ Armando Solares

The UCF Cheerleaders don't let the lack of fans in the stands get them down as they cheer on the Golden Knights women's basketball team at the UCF Arena, Saturday.

Hometown struggles over King's legacy

Reuters

ATLANTA - As America paused Monday to remember Martin Luther King Jr., the city that helped forge the legacy of the slain civil rights leader is struggling to preserve his memory amid hometown acrimony.

King Day, which marks the 10th national holiday honoring his birth, has been an occasion for presidential visits and stirring calls for nonviolent social change.

King's widow, Coretta Scott King, also has relinquished leadership of the center she established in the wake of King's 1968 assassination to her 33-year-old son, Dexter, giving rise to speculation that her hallmark speech this year may be

her last.

A few weeks ago, the park service was ordered off the King Center property.

But residents of the impoverished inner-city district say the controversy only underscores the arrogance of the King family. The Reverend Joseph Roberts, senior pastor at the adjacent Ebenezer Baptist Church in which King preached, says the family is being "undemocratic and dictatorial."

Regardless of the dispute's outcome, however, Dexter King faces an even greater challenge as he strives to keep his father's legacy alive.

In the past, an annual teaching program held at the King Center for Non-Violent Social Change at-

tracted the enthusiastic participation of luminaries such as then-U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett.

This year, the keynote address was delivered by Betty Shabazz, the widow of Malcolm X, a day after her daughter was charged with trying to arrange the murder of Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam leader who has sought to fill the void in black leadership left by King's death.

"People have not embraced the principles of Martin Luther King Jr.," Dexter King said recently.

"I have allowed myself to be an instrument for change, and hopefully, somehow, through struggle, character is forged."

S.C. seeks death sentence for Smith

Reuters

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Prosecutors will seek the electric chair for a woman who confessed to killing her two young sons last October after initially saying they had been kidnapped, her attorney said Sunday.

Attorney David Bruck said the prosecutor in the case in southern South Carolina informed him Friday the state would ask for the death penalty should Smith be convicted.

Bruck said prosecutor Tommy Pope made the official announcement of the decision at a court hearing Monday in Union, S.C. at which Smith is also to be charged formally.

"He is insisting that she be there to get this piece of paper in front of

everybody," Bruck said of the death penalty notice Smith will receive. Pope declined to comment.

Smith had already learned of the state's decision, Bruck said.

Smith of Union is charged with the drowning deaths of her sons Michael, 3, and Alex, a 14-month-old, in late October.

Smith, who is white, concocted a story about a black man hijacking her car and her sons while at a traffic light. She said he then made her drive before pushing her out of the car and taking off with the boys.

After nine days of tearful pleas for the boys' return that were televised nationwide, the hoax unraveled. Smith confessed on November 3 she had pushed her car down a boat ramp into

a lake.

The car was retrieved with the children still strapped in the back seat.

If Smith is convicted there will be a separate hearing to determine whether she is sent to the electric chair or receive a jail sentence. The trial is not expected to begin for at least six months.

In her confession statement, Smith wrote she had both financial and personal difficulties.

Separated and getting a divorce from her husband David, the 23-year-old secretary was dating her employer's son. She said the man had told her in a letter he was dissolving the relationship because, among other things, he was not ready for fatherhood.

UCF's biggest fans?



photo/ ARMANDO SOLARES

Two UCF students hold a sign to cheer on the Golden Knights. The women's basketball team beat Campbell 80-76 on Jan. 12 and defeated the College of Charleston 66-45 on Jan. 14.

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News Bits

Wanted: Used cars

Best Buddies, a national organization which gives college students a chance to become friends with mentally retarded persons, is seeking donations of unwanted vehicles. The donations can be used as tax deductions, based on fair market value of the car, truck or boat. The cars will be sold or recycled for parts. Contact: Laurie Blume, (305) 374-2233.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many organization in Central Florida looking for volunteers:

• The Orlando Science Center is looking for volunteers for a traveling exhibit. Call Beth, 896-7151, ext. 31.

• Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society, Inc. is looking for volunteers to assist with completing applications for individuals applying for free legal services. Call Pat at 834-2080.

• WMFE-Channel 24 needs on-air readers for several two-hour morning shifts. Call Twis at 273-2300, ext. 196.

• The Parent Resource Center needs child care assistants for children three months to six years old. Call Joyce, 578-2437.

Minority scholarships

Eight minority students recently received \$2,750 awards for outstanding achievements and a high G.P.A.: Chen Cui, Thuha Hoang, Basil Itani, Manuel Mora, Michael Nunez, John Randazzo, Rafel Trespalacios, Jr., and Seung Yi. There will be a reception to honor these students at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 26, in the President's Dinner Room.

Tax forms at library

The Orange County Library System provides free federal income tax forms, while quantities last. Forms available include the basic 1040 series. Free tax assistance will be also be available from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program on Saturdays, from Feb. 11 to April 8, on the third floor of the downtown library. Info: 425-4694.

Garden house to open

The 22,000 square foot Harry P. Leu Gardens will open on Saturday, Jan. 21, after a ribbon cutting ceremony by Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood. The new building will be available for local horticultural and civic groups and features classroom, display, event and exhibition space.

Clinton to tour flooding on Quake Anniversary

Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO - President Clinton, who has declared a major disaster in California, is to visit the state Monday and Tuesday and he will review flood relief efforts.

His visit was previously scheduled to coincide with Tuesday's first anniversary of the last big natural disaster to hit the state — the Los Angeles earthquake, which killed 61 people and caused \$20 billion of damage.

Clinton has approved federal disaster relief and pledged to do everything possible to help flood victims.

Californians got a break Sunday from the storms which caused severe flooding across the state, allowing swollen rivers to recede and flood victims to get on with cleaning their

mud-caked homes.

It was also generally dry Sunday in southern California, which was hit by destructive storms and mudslides last week.

Last week's powerful storms took 11 lives, inflicted \$300 million of damage and caused floods which forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

Federal Emergency Management Agency teams were setting up offices in Sonoma County Sunday to help flood victims register for federal disaster assistance.

California Sen. Barbara Boxer, a Democrat, criticized FEMA Saturday for not having already set up aid centers.

Thousands of Californians have applied for federal aid using a toll-free telephone number, but critics say this method is impersonal and callers are made to wait.

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Jesse Jackson gears up for possible run in '96

Reuters

PORTSMOUTH, N.H., — Rev. Jesse Jackson, set the stage for a 1996 presidential bid as an independent candidate Sunday as he criticized President Clinton and the Republicans during a two-day swing through New Hampshire, the state with the first presidential primary.

The civil rights leader, who ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination in 1984 and 1988 but abstained from running in 1992, said "it's premature" to say if he'll run in 1996 and much depended on Clinton's actions in coming months.

Jackson attacked Clinton for backing down on his 1992 campaign pledge to "put people first" and said he "too often has apologized rather than standing up."

For instance, Clinton should have showed indignation at House Speaker Newt Gingrich's "vulgarity" toward First Lady Hillary Clinton and should be attacking Gingrich's "Contract with America" more vehemently, he added.

Gingrich's mother told reporters twice this past month that Gingrich had referred to Mrs. Clinton as "a bitch".

"The dream of being president is alive... If President Clinton honors the covenant and puts people first, that's one option, but in fact there's this continuous drift toward Gingrich and the Republicans at the expense of the prom-

ise," Jackson said. "That changes everyone's options."

Jackson attacked the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), once headed by Clinton, for moving Democrats to the right and said the two major parties were becoming "indistinguishable."

He said Gingrich wanted to balance the budget on the backs of the poor, focusing on Aid to Dependent Children, which pays welfare benefits to 14 million people, nine million of whom are children, but ignoring "aid to dependent corporations."

Jackson was officially in New Hampshire to urge passage of a law honoring slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. New Hampshire is the only state that doesn't recognize the federal holiday, which will be observed Monday.

But the handshakes, baby-hugging and media deluge revealed his political aspirations.

Jackson is building a state-by-state organization and voter drive through his National Rainbow Coalition to try to regain 50 Congressional Districts from Republicans and to support his own possible third party presidential run.

Jackson spoke to standing-room-only crowds in Manchester, N.H., Saturday night and at two Baptist churches in Portsmouth, N.H., on Sunday before heading to Hartford, Conn.

Korean women learn how to marry Uncle Sam

Reuters

SEOUL, South Korea—You're a young Korean woman whose boyfriend happens to be a GI. You like eating kimchi three times a day but he eats only hamburgers and fries, with plenty of mayo.

Your English is poor and he speaks no Korean. But you're in love and want to tie the knot. You both think there may be a problem. You're probably right.

But there's help at hand — the "Brides School for Korean wives and fiancées of American military men to prepare you for your new lives together." All you ever wanted to know about how to please your man when he finally leaves South Korea and heads back to South Carolina.

There are 23 women enrolled on the current one-month course with an average age of 25. Sometimes they are as young as 18.

Lessons range from the practical to the, well, quaint. From learning about health care, history and culture, how to draw money from an American bank and how to cook apple pie just like Mom, to arranging flowers and knowing how much make-up to wear when you meet the in-laws for the first time.

"Years ago we had to teach the girls even simple things like how to make a bed or use a vacuum cleaner," said Yvonne Park, program director of the Brides School, run by the U.S.-South Korean

United Services Organization (USO) since 1970.

"But now Koreans have become more sophisticated and they want to learn about American culture and, especially, to improve their English."

Also they want to learn how to adapt from the age-old traditions of family-oriented South Korea to the push and shove of what many here describe as the gigantic supermarket across the Pacific.

So what about a brides school for women in the U.S. military wanting to marry Korean men? Or a husbands school for U.S. military men wanting to marry Korean women?

"We do run classes for Americans interested in learning about Korean culture, and some of the would-be husbands sit in on the Brides School classes," Park said.

"But they do not face the same problems as the Koreans. Eventually they will be returning to their homes. The ladies at this school are going to a brand new, totally different country."

Suji, 31, is married to helicopter pilot Chief Warrant Officer Paul Santos, originally of San Francisco but now in his third year at the Yongsan U.S. Army base in Seoul. Suji decided to en-

see KOREAN, page 4

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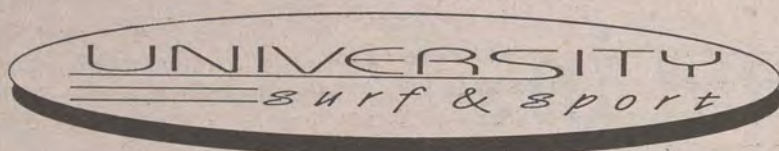
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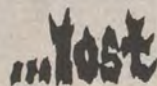
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'Higher than average' divorce rate for US soldiers and Korean women

KOREAN, from page 4

roll at the Brides School after her first trip to the United States to meet Paul's family.

"The biggest problem was the first," she said, with Park acting as interpreter. "The immigration people were so rude. Paul and I were split up into different lines and he had the tickets and baggage tags and I was very, very scared."

That episode ended in tears

and already she was wishing she had never left home. And there are other aspects of America that frighten Suji, the biggest being language and crime.

"Everyone speaks English so fast over there, it makes me feel dumb. Also, here in Korea, there is little crime and if someone is poor, we all do our best to help. We live like a community. It's not like that in America.

"And then there's the food.

I'm better now, but before, if I went three days without kimchi, then I really needed kimchi," the spicy, fermented, pickled vegetable dish which is a must at every Korean meal. "Luckily Paul likes kimchi too."

Park agreed the lack of community spirit in the United States was one of the major problems facing new arrivals from Korea. "Here a marriage is between families," she said. "In America, a marriage is between individuals."

She also admitted the divorce rate between U.S. soldiers and Korean women was "higher than average," but she did not have statistics.

Where there are problems, again the Brides School is at hand,

with graduates "networking" across the States, helping each other out in various domestic crises.

However there has been a development over the last few years which Park admits is making her school less and less a must as a finishing school for GI brides.

"Women in Korea are becoming much more assertive," she said. "They have more legal rights, labor laws are written for them and more and more are going out to earn their living as professionals. These people are already familiar with the ways of the world outside Korea."

Oh Seong-keun is such a woman. At 39, she already has a successful career in insurance, but the Brides School fits in with her

plans to travel and confront new challenges overseas.

"I like American men, but don't have any immediate plans to marry," she said, adding she would be happy to escape the "narrow mindedness" of Korean men for a while.

Hairdresser Kang Sun-nye, 25, plans to marry her American boyfriend Richie and live in Florida from next year, but given the choice, she would stay at home.

"I will be a bit scared and sad to leave Korea, because the two countries live and think so differently," she said.

"Also Korean men are not a problem. Everything is changing here. Korean men nowadays are becoming more and more sensitive."

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5 dead, 10 missing in Iceland avalanche

Reuters

REYKJAVIK - At least five people were killed and 10 others were missing after an avalanche smashed into an isolated fishing village in northwestern Iceland early on Monday, local authorities said.

The Icelandic National Civil Defense, which is in charge of the rescue operation, said 11 people, some of them injured, had been rescued from houses in the remote village of Sudavik after a wall of snow and ice hit it at 6.30 a.m. local time.

However 10 others, some of them children, were still missing

and hopes for their survival under tons of snow were fading, rescuers said.

Authorities in Sudavik said five bodies had been found by late Monday afternoon. About 13 houses were reported to have been hit by the avalanche.

Some of those rescued were children who had been sleeping when the avalanche hit and had only their underwear on when they were dug out of the snow.

A fierce storm was raging in the western part of the island and the weather conditions were not expected to improve soon, making the search for those still missing ex-

tremely difficult.

Rescuers, fearing more avalanches, evacuated the inhabitants of the village to a local fishing plant and said they would later be shipped to Isafjordur, the largest town in the region and one of Iceland's main fish processing centers.

A police spokesman said the entire northwestern region of the country had been declared a danger zone because of the threat of more avalanches.

In other villages in the western part of the Atlantic island of only 265,000, authorities evacuated people from a number of buildings and brought them to safe places.

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NEWS

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Police Beat



• A 24-year-old student reported that a man hiding in bushes near Phillips Hall was masturbating in front of her. After he left, she found what appeared to be semen in the bushes, 3:20 p.m. Jan. 5.

• A 20-year-old woman reported that a man grabbed her arms, neck and shoulder with his hands, between 8:30 and 9 p.m. Jan. 8, in a parking lot near the Administration building.

• David J. Johnson, 40, was arrested and charged with driving while drunk, 10:45 p.m. on Research Parkway near Discovery Drive.

• Michael K. Yaw, 24, was arrested and charged with having an open container of alcohol, outside of Lake Claire Apartments, 9:10 p.m. Jan. 6.

• Someone partially burned floor buttons 1 and 2 and burned and melted buttons 3 and 4 in an

elevator of Orange Hall Jan. 9. Estimated damage was \$50.

• Joseph F. Stout, 18, reported that two men entered his room in Polk Hall by unscrewing a grate in the door and crawling through the hole, between Dec. 15 and Jan. 4. The men stole a video game player valued at \$300.

• A man ripped a bar code off a library book and tried to steal it from the Library without checking it out, 2:57 p.m. Jan. 9.

• Someone stole a handcart valued at \$100 out of Room 159 of the Education building, between 1:30 p.m. Jan. 5 and 8 a.m. Jan. 6.

Teacher evaluation form scrutiny varies at different departments

EVALUATIONS, from page 1

comparisons of classes of comparable size and content, as well as correlations between grade distributions in a particular class and how the professor and the course were evaluated.

But not all colleges put student evaluations under such scrutiny. At the College of Education, the place where students learn to become teachers, the weight of student evaluations "depends on the department chair," said interim associate dean Dr. David Hernandez.

"In our college, we evaluate faculty in at least three areas: teaching, creative activity [research] and service to the university community," Hernandez added.

The engineering department looks at evaluations a little more closely though.

"I initially look at the statistics; if I see that the high percentages are in the D [somewhat disagree] and E [strongly disagree], then I know there's a problem there," said A. Essan Radwan, chairman of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. "If that's the case, then I'll go back and read all the written comments on the back. I take notes, and when I meet with the faculty for their annual evaluation in May, I point out some of these things." But the individual course assessed by Radwan depends on the one the faculty member chooses.

One area in which student evaluations have the greatest impact is in what is known as the Teacher Incentive Program. Cre-

ated by the Florida legislature two years ago, it is designed to financially reward professors who are considered outstanding by committees set up in each college. The committees are usually made up of one representative per department and a student selected by the dean's student advisory council. According to Dr. Naval Modani, associate professor of finance and faculty senate president, an important element of a professor's score is "student perception of the faculty member."

Are students expecting to receive a relatively low grade more likely to give a professor a bad rating? "There have been national studies conducted to see if there is a correlation," said Dr. Kathryn Seidel, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. But Seidel added that the results have been divided, given the difference in class sizes and the diversity of course material.

Maria DiBlasio, 21, a political science major said, "I don't think [the evaluations] hold much weight, or else I would spend more time on them." She added that she fills out both sides of the evaluation but doesn't think "they have an effect on who is hired, who is retained or who is tenured."

Tim Heise, a 23-year-old international relations major, agreed. "Nobody really takes too much time filling them out," he said. "After the survey is done, we don't hear about the results," he added. But Heise said that he usually takes the evaluations seriously and takes a long time in filling them out.

Responding to the perception that student evaluations are

more of symbolism than substance, Hernandez added that "It's a popular American pastime to complain — Nobody reads the evaluations; all politicians are crooks; the public schools are cesspools, etc. It's one of those common generalizations." He welcomed the criticism, though, saying that "students should continue to hold our feet to the fire to make us look at them."

Look to the *Future* sports section for Orlando Magic coverage throughout the season.

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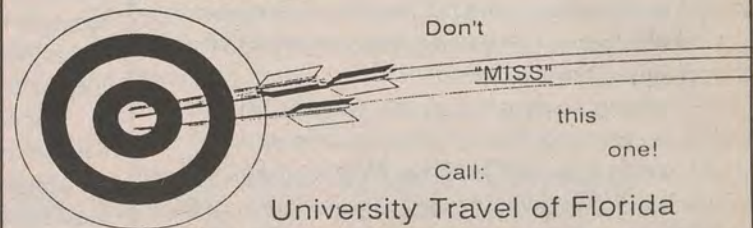
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Hold on to your checkbooks, folks, it's going to be rough

Well, just when you thought college couldn't get any more expensive, it does. On Friday, the Florida Board of Regents is expected to approve a 6.5 percent increase in tuition for the 1995-96 school year. Thanks to a new law just enacted, UCF is now allowed to regulate its own tuition increase each year. The base tuition fee will still be set for all state universities, but each university will be able to raise that amount by as much as 10 percent.

Of course, the administration here feels that the higher tuition would allow the school to improve its educational standards and bring in more students. Now, students find themselves battling their old foe, the greed of the upper class.

John Bolte, UCF's vice president for administration and finance sums up the situation all too well: "The immense demand gives us the ability to do this. We certainly wouldn't try this if enrollment was declining." To translate: "Well, if students can pay for tuition now, we'll just keep raising tuition until students start dropping out. I mean, after all, this is a business, right?"

So, essentially, the situation is that the universities around Florida can raise their tuition until only the students who have massive economic resources can attend. After all, if the university has to turn away so many students each year, why not just charge so much that only the privileged few can attend?

The money is slated to go to computer labs, to increase the number of classes offered and financial aid. So what's wrong with that? Nothing, but when the increased tuition causes students to drop out due to a lack of funding, the university oversteps its bounds. The job of a university is not to milk the students for whatever they can afford, and allowing the colleges to raise tuition at their leisure puts the administration in a position of power they have no authority being in. More popular colleges will be allowed to increase their tuitions to the maximum, since they know that they have a large enough enrollment rate that someone will be able to pay it. Smaller colleges will be forced to limit their increases to try and bring in the "poorer" students.

This policy needs to be stopped before it continues and destroys what integrity was left of the public university system. Call UCF president John Hitt at 823-1823 and tell him what you think about UCF raising its tuition over the current state base tuition rate.

Chad Brunner
Opinion editor



Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate

The modern day Sheriff of Nottingham

The Constitution of the United States provides that no citizen will be subject to illegal search or seizure, which seems to be a simple concept. However, the Sheriff of Volusia County believes himself to be exempt from the highest law of the land. The question is, WHY?

This controversy began in 1992, when *The Orlando Sentinel* ran a series of investigative reports questioning the operation of Sheriff Bob Vogel's Selective Enforcement Team on Interstate 95 in Volusia County. This team stopped motorists for minor traffic violations, searched their vehicles and seized cash even when there were no drugs found and no arrests were made. In many of these cases, the drivers were not even ticketed for the alleged traffic violation. Curiously enough, of the almost 1100 recorded stops, 70 percent of the drivers were African-American or Hispanic. Traffic statistics show that less than 3 percent of the motorists who travel this stretch of interstate are in the racial group.

Two of the motorists who were stopped and had their money stolen from them decided to fight back. Selena Washington and Jorge Nater filed suit against Vogel in federal court for having their constitutional rights violated on the basis of their skin color. Last Friday, U.S. District Judge Anne Conway ruled that the testimony during the previous five days had failed to produce sufficient evidence to prove that Sheriff Vogel has used any illegal tactics against the motorists. Is this judge just plain stupid or is she a conservative Republican? The answer to both questions is an unequivocal yes.

Just what kind of evidence did Judge Conway need? Neither Washington nor Nater were arrested or charged with any crime. Both proved that the cash came from legitimate sources. In one case, it was from the sale of a house, and in the other, it was an inheritance. Not that they should have had to prove anything, since there was no evidence of illegal activity. In order to get their money back, they had to sign a statement saying that they would not sue the Sheriff's Department and let the department keep a portion of the cash. In Washington's case, Vogel made her give them \$6,000. How can this type of extortion be condoned by any court?

During the testimony, the prosecutor produced a memo that detailed a "profile" of the "typical drug courier." Deputies were told to be especially watchful of "ethnic groups associated with the drug trade," specifically blacks and Hispanics. How more blatantly racist could Vogel be? Does he have to wear his white sheet and

Dan Griffin
EVERYTHING IN MODERATION

fly his Confederate flag in front of the judge for her to comprehend that he is an unabashed racist? Two Volusia County deputies even testified that Vogel held a meeting on the median strip of I-95, telling them to single out blacks for traffic stops. Yet this isn't good enough for Judge Conway.

Sheriff Vogel, of course, is very pleased with himself. According to him, he was just doing his job and upholding the law. Vogel blames his troubles on *The Orlando Sentinel* articles that he says maligned his agency. Now, is that not typical right-wing conservative propaganda? Why is it that any time one of these self-righteous conservatives, like Sheriff Vogel or Newt Gingrich, does something illegal or improper, it's not their fault? They blame it on their favorite scapegoat, the liberal media. This seems to be a recurring theme, doesn't it? Never take responsibility for your actions when you can blame them on somebody else.

Of course, I would be remiss in not mentioning George Crossley, a right-wing, conservative Christian television preacher who crusaded AGAINST Bob Vogel and his organized racism. Crossley has taken a lot of heat from the right wing for his stand, but he has held firm to his convictions. On most issues, Crossley and I disagree, but he is one of the few enlightened members of the so-called Christian right who can tell the difference between right and wrong. He gives the hope that not all of the right wing believes in hate, racism and fascism like Sheriff Vogel.

I think the saddest part of all this is that this decision came just a few days before the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King. In the almost 30 years since King's assassination, we have accomplished so little in upholding the rights of African-Americans and other minorities that racially motivated police tactics have been given the stamp of approval by our court system.

So let's do something about it. In less than 30 days, the U.S. Justice Department will decide whether or not to charge members of the Volusia County Sheriff's Office with criminal civil rights violations. Write to the Justice Department, Governor Lawton Chiles, Senators Bob Graham and Connie Mack, Representative Bill McCollum, Attorney General Janet Reno and whomever else you can think of, and let them know that the people of the State of Florida find Bob Vogel to be a racist, a scumbag and a criminal. We want him removed from office and punished to the full extent of the law. Let's help achieve the dreams of Martin Luther King, not slip into the world of hate and injustice represented by Sheriff Vogel.

Two deputies testified that Vogel held a meeting to single out blacks for traffic stops.

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Letter to the editor

Hispanics, other minorities need to stop crying discrimination

Let me tell you a little about myself. I am of Latin heritage — an immigrant from a Spanish-speaking South American country. I'm proud of my heritage, and other than being a *homo sapien*, I have almost nothing in common with most Mexicans, Central Americans, Puerto Ricans or even most non-neighbor- ing South American natives. With the Cuban people, I have one thing in common: My Cuban friends, I share your burning desire to see Fidel Castro disappear. Although I'm proud of my heritage, I respect other people.

I don't buy this "multiculturalism" propaganda. It exists only to create distrust between the groups, especially distrust from "minority" groups aimed against the majority, because they are brainwashed to believe that since their cultural group is outnumbered, they are culturally an oppressed group. America is not a multicultural society, and it was never meant to be. It is a melting pot. Physical diversity is fine — There's nothing wrong with that, but we are a melting pot.

As a result of this paranoid propaganda that is unfortunately brainwashing some people into being convinced that they are of an oppressed group, we can see some destructive results of this mistrust aimed against people that are not a minority. Case in point: The ridiculous lawsuit being filed against Volusia County Sheriff Bob Vogel. The plaintiffs erroneously interpret certain statistical data as proof that they were targeted in a drug sting because of their race, ethnic background or national origin. As a Hispanic supporting the war on drugs and crime, I am offended and embarrassed by the ridiculous allegation that blacks

and Hispanics were targeted. My heart goes out to Sheriff Vogel, a courageous crime fighter. Hispanics make up 9 percent of the population and 27 percent of those traffic stops, so what? Are police supposed to adopt a quota system for who gets stopped, checked or arrested?

As an immigrant, let me point something out: All communities have their ups and downs. In Latin America people are mostly friendly, but a disproportionate amount of them are careless drivers. If you don't believe me, visit a Hispanic Latin American country, and see how much of a mess traffic is. Fewer people fol-

low traffic rules there than even here in Florida. That is simply a fact. The majority of Hispanics here are immigrants from Latin America. The remainder are either children or descendants of them. These immigrants' driving patterns continue in the U.S.

Sheriff Vogel's team targeted careless drivers, which is perfectly right to do, and therefore happened to get a large number of Hispanic immigrants. I only wish that people would understand this and therefore realize how ridiculous and unfair this lawsuit is. Whoever you are, if you don't want to get stopped on Interstate 95, simply drive carefully, and that is all you need.

Another example in which this needless fear, paranoia and the oppressed group syndrome is California's Proposition 187. The only real issue here is the enforcement of laws that have been in the books for years. Why should I, a legal immigrant, who played by the rules to get here, have my tax money subsidize services given to those who broke the rules? The paranoid protesters in Los Angeles and recently in downtown Orlando cannot come up with any logic in their opposition to the proposition; all they do is use demagogical

misinformation.

As in the Vogel case, statistical data is at the heart of their erroneous reasoning. Because 60 percent of these law breakers happen to be of Mexican background and another 10 percent consists of other "Hispanic" backgrounds, as in the Vogel case, protestors claim that 187 is "discriminatory and targets Hispanics." That would be like saying that a proposition to crack down on rampant auto theft in the big cities is racist against "poor young black males." In both cases, anyone who would inject race into the issue is a demagogical bozo.

Another flawed perception is that it is an "anti-immigrant measure." That should be corrected to anti-ILLEGAL immigrant. Unless we are a North American Indian, we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants. The issue here is enforcement of the law. Legal immigrants have contributed much to this country, and legal immigrants are the ones who have been the most affected due to job competition with illegal immigrants. Since they are mostly poor, they compete with illegals for low-paying jobs.

To conclude, I would like to direct this message to the anglo-American communities: As a Hispanic, I disapprove of the militant disorderly conduct that has been displayed by some Hispanics in both the Vogel and 187 cases.

Their demagogical attitude is wrong, and I am offended. If they don't approve, they have the first amendment right to express themselves. They can say they don't agree with its concepts, but when they make it into a racial or ethnic issue, they have gone way too far. They have crossed the line from free speech to damaging demagoguery. They are forgetting that most Latin American countries have even tougher immigration laws, and they never mention this.

Name on file but withheld by request

Sheriff Vogel's team targeted careless drivers, which is perfectly right.

Why should I have to subsidize my tax money for services given to those who broke the rules?

Students need to accept free speech as well as dish it out

Something that happened on campus the other day really put me to thinking. I was walking around after class and I heard screams and shouts over on the Green. I cruised over to investigate the ruckus, hoping it was a fight between two of the competing picture dealers, only to find about 50 people heckling two pseudo-fanatic, Christian preachers.

I was appalled at first. Here we were on a university campus, a place where free speech and individual choice is fought for everyday, and people were not even giving the two men a chance to speak. Granted, they were not spouting the most desirable kind of religious spiel and they did have a sign up that said all homosexuals, those who engage in pre-marital sex, cheaters, alcohol consumers, etc., were going to hell. But didn't they have the right to say whatever they wanted?

I thought so, but most of the others did not. Some of

Jeff Hunt
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

the students confronted the preachers with opposing religious philosophy and then did not want to hear their reply; others jeered to the point of not letting the preachers get a word in. And then there

was the lady in pink who was so dead set against hearing what the religious kooks had to say, that she yelled the entire time and then attempted to assault one of the preachers by kicking his podium (a bucket) and stepping on his briefcase.

I became more appalled as I watched. Shouldn't we, as free-thinkers and champions of liberty, let the preachers say whatever they want even if it is insulting to many? Shouldn't we exhibit the qualities of tolerance that we expect from others who don't hold our same beliefs? Shouldn't we

do what we wish others would do - walk away? Or turn a deaf ear, close the book, turn off the radio, etc. Isn't ignoring these simple alternatives what leads to censorship?

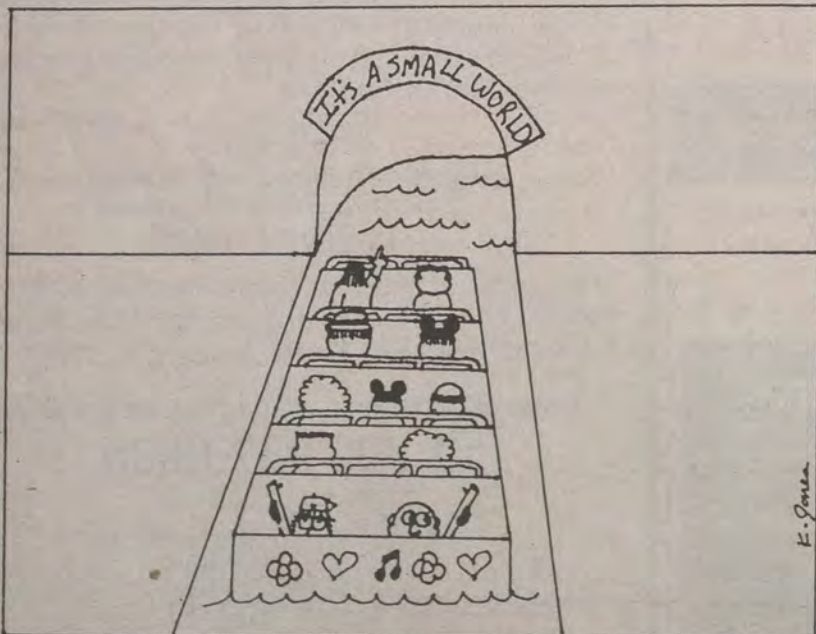
But then I had a fresh realization! Wasn't this the kind of enthusiasm and conviction that the yuppies were always saying that my generation is lacking? Aren't the Baby Boomers always pining that those Generation X'ers are too complacent? Well, there was our rebuttal. I'll bet the protests were taken one step farther, the Baby Boomers would never dare to speak of the younger generation's apathy again.

The students on the Green should have hired some of the laid-off baseball concession workers to go around and hand out large boulders to the onlookers so they could have stoned the preachers to death. Not only would this have shown the world that Generation X'ers have what it takes to survive in this dog-eat-dog world, but it would have also given the preachers a way to investigate the claims that they were making. Either way you look at it, there's much to be learned from a little confrontation on campus. I look forward to the next exciting episode of censorship vs. intellectual freedom.

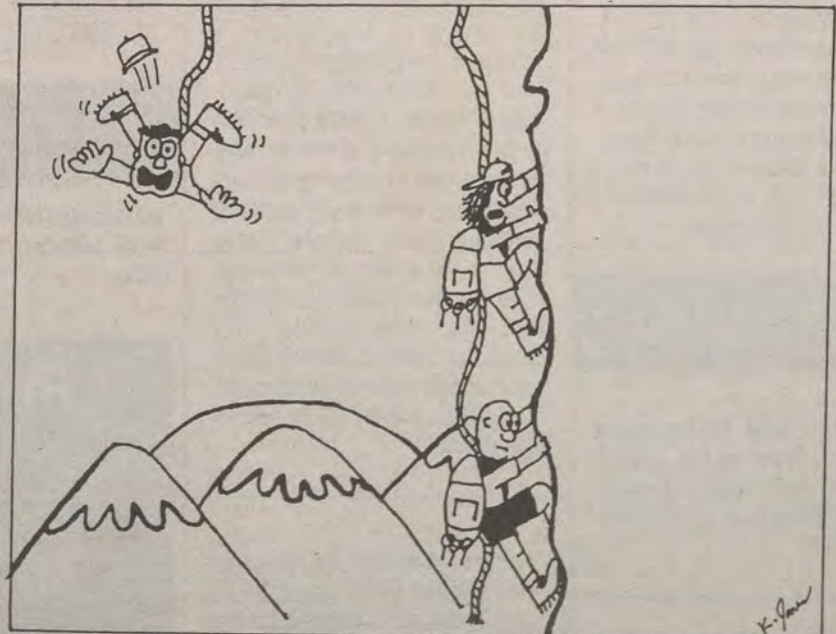
...Generation X'ers are too complacent? Well, there was our rebuttal.

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GREEK CORNER

ATTN: KD LADIES

Get ready for a big semester. In January we have our vest retreat ever, March - War of the Wings, and April - The White Rose Banquet and Ball. In between don't forget about all of our socials, but most important **STUDY HARD!** KD would like to welcome Alpha Xi Delta to UCF and Alpha Tau Omega to Greek Park. Congratulations to our new Executive Council.

Bekah Campbell, Nicole Hougasian, Melanie Becker, Tracey Brown, Tonya Patterson, Stacey George, Barbara Lopez, Shannan Miles, Michelle Hildebrand, and best wishes to our outgoing Council.

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THEATRE UCF

Hodges leads the 'Trojan Women'

by KENNETH LOO
Staff writer

Motivation. It is one of the most sought after qualities in a person — motivation in life, in attitude and in accomplishment. When casting began for the Theatre UCF production of *The Trojan Women*, director Dr. Harry Smith was looking for people with the motivation to fill the characters of this classic Greek tragedy. More importantly, he was looking for a motivator, a supporter and a hard worker to commandeer the role of Hecuba. When Jennifer Hodges, a theater major at UCF, entered, it quickly became clear

that she was ready for the challenge.

A large amount of motivation can be found in Hodges. Within the UCF theater department, she is known as a leader and a friend to everyone she encounters. The leader portion of her personality has always lived inside of her, starting when she attended high school in Armarillo, Texas.

"The [high] school we went to was brand new, and we were the first class to be in there," she said. "They didn't have a drama club; they didn't have anything. I was motivated from my other high school, as well as just myself, to create a drama club. I eventually became president, and our mem-

bership raised [from] 16 members to 150 during my term because I just wanted to motivate everyone to be an individual and because theater is an expression of everyone's individuality. And what teenager doesn't want to do that?"

Hodges then came to UCF after reading an article about the theater department's chairperson, Dr. Donald Seay, and hearing about his plans and ideas to structure the program.

"Dr. Seay's goals were the goals that I believed in — a summer company, a tough season, high caliber classes and professors. His favorite playwright is Bertold Brecht and so is

FEATURES



Jennifer Hodges brings more than acting to Theatre UCF.

mine. I was very excited to read and hear about Dr. Seay, and he really attracted me to the department," Hodges said. "My dad, who lived in Florida, and I, made a deal that I would live with him and go to school here at UCF.

"I didn't really expect anything because I knew it was a university, and I was brand new and didn't expect to be cast in anything. And I wasn't, until I auditioned for the student-directed one-acts and got cast in one—*Graceland*. That was great because it was a wonderful part, and one of my best friends came out of that. That was a great experience for me because I kind of exorcised my Texas demons. She was a real Texas trailer park trash character, and I did great."

After finishing her role in *Graceland*, Jennifer gave the UCF auditions another try, and she got called back by every director.

"I couldn't believe it because the last semester all I did was technical work, and I hadn't acted in a long time. There was nothing to challenge me," Hodges explained. This audition cast Hodges in the musical *Cabaret* as Fraulein Schnieder and got her the opportunity to work with one of the most brilliant men she says she knows — Dr. Nick Rinaldi.

This year Hodges' leadership again became part of her life when she became vice president of Alpha Psi Omega, the honorary theater society, and stage-managed the production of

The Kentucky Cycle, Part 1. Next, she took on a new dimension in the role of Hecuba in the upcoming production of *Trojan Women*. Queen of the Trojans, Hecuba's story is played out when her son Paris takes Helen and begins the Trojan War. This heart-wrenching classic drama is a challenging role for Hodges, and she is approaching it with much spirit. Citing the range of emotions and the tests to the mental states of her character, Hodges has tackled the role and reigns as the tragedy's main character.

The character almost didn't come out at the end of the semester as Hodges considered switching her concentration and wrestled with either stage management or acting.

"Acting is such an intimidating and insecure place to be. I wanted to be secure in stage management, because you can always find a paying, good job there. Dr. Seay saw right through that.

"I was definitely meant to be here because he connects with me so well. He said, 'Jennifer, you need to stop working on the back-up plan. You are an actress, you are one of the most passionate people I know here and you should go for it. You need to start working on your acting.' Later on in the semester I was very stale, and I wasn't concentrating on what I was doing or feeling on stage...I went in to talk to Dr. Seay again, and I tried to figure out what was wrong with me.

"He said, 'You're trying to deal with all this outside stuff because you don't want to deal with what's inside.' After that the bell rang in my head, and I started to deal with what was inside, and over the winter break, the part of Hecuba has just come out of the very depths of me. Emotions came out that I haven't felt in years. I feel comfortable with these emotions and playing them out on stage."

Hodges feels *Trojan Women* promises to be a startlingly good performance, and she encourages everyone to see it. She highlights the interesting interpretation of Dr. Smith and the amazing portrayal done by the other actors.

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Oprah Winfrey says she smoked cocaine in her twenties

Reuters

NEW YORK - Oprah Winfrey, America's most popular talk show host, admitted Friday to smoking crack cocaine when she was in her twenties, saying "it is my life's great big secret."

The host of *The Oprah Winfrey Show* said in a program dealing with four women recovering from drug abuse that her own problem had not been the drug itself but that she was "addicted to the man" who introduced her to drugs.

"This is probably one of the hardest things I've ever said, here it is, here it is," Winfrey said, fighting back tears and pausing to compose herself.

"I relate to your stories so much ... what was said about being introduced to drugs by men in your life. In my twenties, I have done this drug. I know exactly what you are talking about. And it is my life's great big secret."

Winfrey, who according to her spokeswoman is watched by 15 million people daily across the United States, said her guests had given her the courage to confess to drug use.

Winfrey admitted to drug use after a discussion with one of the women, identified as Charmane Brown, who had written to the talk show host asking for her help because she smokes

crack cocaine but isn't sure whether she is an addict because she is still functioning in her daily life.

"I understand the shame and I understand the guilt and I understand the secrecy. I understand all of that," Winfrey continued after prolonged applause from the studio audience at the show, which was taped Wednesday in Chicago and broadcast Friday.

The *Washington Post* had reported Winfrey's confession in its Friday morning editions after one of its reporters, Patrice Gaines, appeared in the program as a guest. Gaines has written a book about her own battle with drugs.

"What I know is that the spirit of God inside all of us ... a lot of people believe the drug is stronger than the power of God ... there is nothing greater than the spirit within you to overcome it," Winfrey, who turns 41 this month, said.

The show, which has been nationally syndicated since 1986,

is characterized by its personal tone. Winfrey revealed on the show that she had been raped at age 9 by a cousin, and then molested by others close to the family until she was 14.

"Our preliminary re-

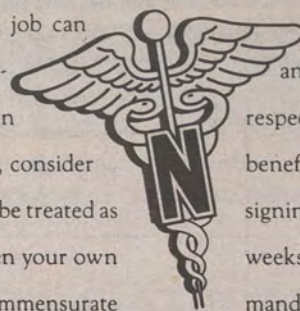
sponse (to the program) has been very positive," Winfrey's spokeswoman Deborah Johns said Friday. "Of course, it will be a few days before we can read our mail and review our calls."

She declined to add to a

statement she made to the *Washington Post* that "Oprah made a spontaneous admission to mothers battling drug addiction that she had also used drugs. Oprah's words on the show are the best expression of how she feels."

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Charles Haley: 'I'm finished with football'

Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO — Dallas Cowboys Pro Bowl defensive end Charles Haley is contemplating retirement.

Haley indicated after Sunday's 38-28 loss to the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC Championship Game that he plans to retire, but made no official announcement.

"I'm finished with football," said the 31-year-old Haley after the game. "There are no could haves, should haves, would haves. I don't think I have another year in me."

Dallas owner Jerry Jones said after Sunday's game that he plans to sit down with Haley to discuss his future.

Haley led the Cowboys with 12 1/2 sacks this season and was voted to the NFC Pro Bowl team as a starter.

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Golden Knights stay at .500 in conference play

from GOLDEN, page 12

superstar Swaby absent, due to academic suspension.

But despite the misfortune, the Golden Knights are still in the race to win the TAAC Championship yet again. And the TAAC tournament will take place at the UCF Arena this year as well.

"We're going to be in the tournament," Swaby said. "We just need to start winning some games."

City celebrates San Francisco 49ers' victory

Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO - San Franciscans shook off days of severe flooding in northern California to celebrate in the streets after their 49ers beat the two-time defending champion Dallas Cowboys to earn a trip to the Super Bowl.

Though officially the National Football Conference championship, this game, played Sunday in front of a record 69,125 Candlestick Park crowd, was hyped all week as the "real" Super Bowl, and a chance for San Francisco to avenge losses to the Cowboys in NFC title tilts the previous two years.

After the Niners' 38-28 victory, big crowds collected in the streets, cheering and chanting. Traffic was snarled all over town as drivers drove through honking horns and waving 49er flags.

Police said there were several arrests for blocking traffic and public drunkenness. Police also said someone had fired celebratory shots into the air on a street corner, but no one was hurt. Rain eventually drove most of the celebrants indoors.

No one was more exultant than 49ers coach George Seifert, despite his reputation as Mr Cerebral.

"The real Super Bowl is in two weeks," said Seifert, "but this was a titanic battle.

"Think of the most emotional day in your life, and multiply it by 25," he said.

The Seifert said the fans' spirit reminded him of the wild and crazy days when San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury neighborhood was the world capital of free-spirited hippiedom.

"I wanted to win so bad for everyone who have worked their butts off. And the fans. The crowd was the best since I've been here. It was the best bunch of berserk jerks since the days of Haight-Ashbury. I couldn't be more proud to be a San Franciscan."

This was the game the 49ers had pointed to ever since they lost last year's NFC championship game in Dallas.

The club used the offseason to beef up its defense with some key acquisitions, none more eye-catching than Deion "Prime Time" Sanders, who gave up more lucrative offers from other teams to chase his championship dream.

After the game, Sanders said: "It feels wonderful to let everyone know it's all right to have a dream. To put away finances and have a dream, that is more important."

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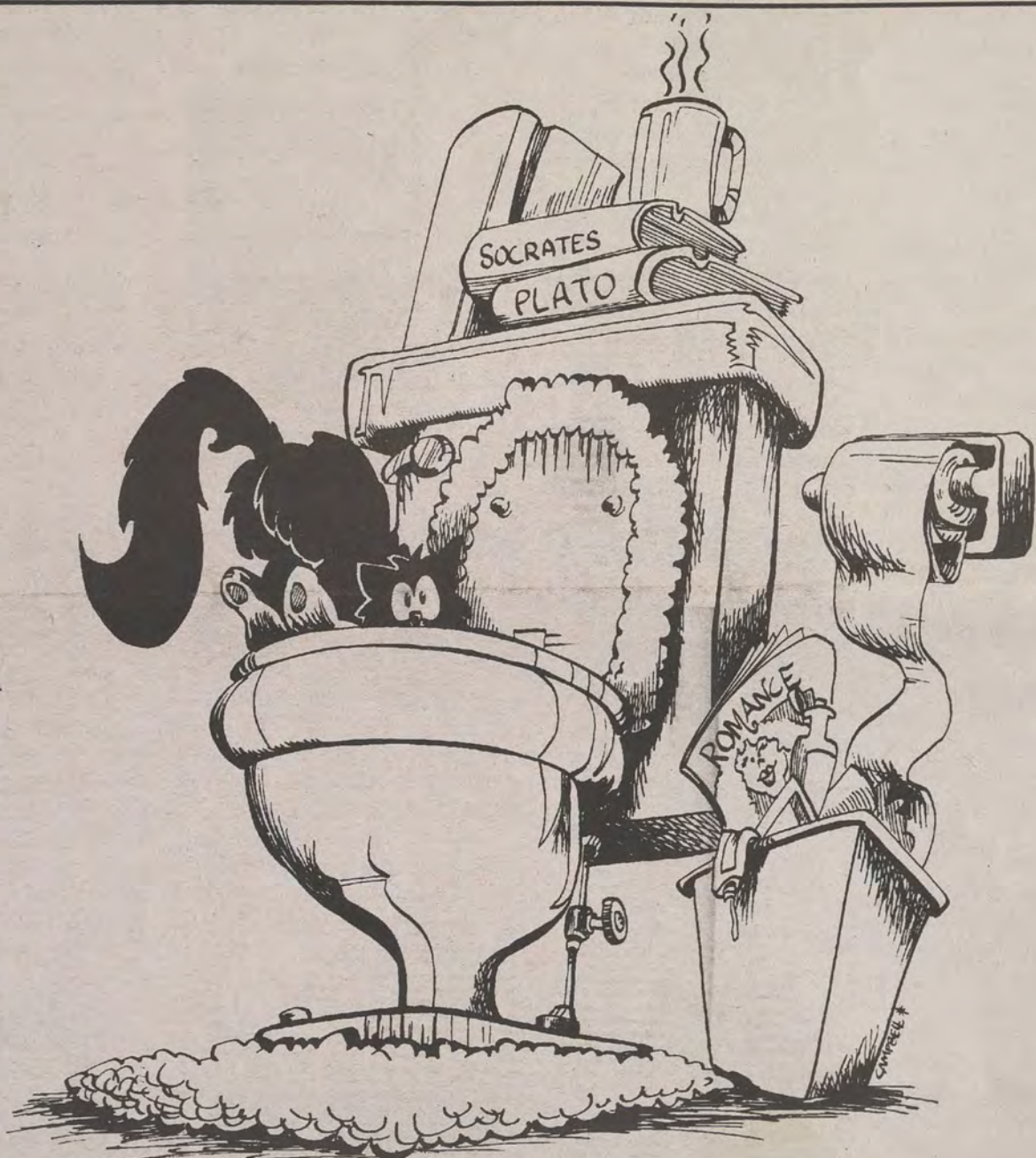
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Around the Horn Justin Delias

It's going to happen. No it's not. Wait, yes it is. After a 103-day lockout, the Hatfields and McCoy's of the NHL signed an agreement and are set to play a 48-game abbreviated season. The owners got pretty much what they wanted in the areas of free agency and salary arbitration, but the players scored a huge victory in the fact that there will be no salary cap. The NHL season is set to start Friday.

As the NHL hockey season gets underway, the NFL is winding down. The conference championships were decided over the weekend as the Chargers downed the Steelers, 17-13, and the Niners threw the gorilla off their back with a 38-28 win against the defending champion Cowboys. The San Francisco 49'ers will face the San Diego Chargers in the Superbowl on Jan. 29th at Joe Robbie Stadium in Miami.

As the season nears an end, rumors abound that instant replay in some shape or form will be present next season.

"Hey, I'm not going anywhere. I'm not interested in the NFL." Sure, whatever. After several denials, Dennis Erikson will in fact be leaving the University of Miami Hurricanes to try his hand in the NFL as head coach of the Seattle Seahawks.

The Jacksonville Jaguars have signed former Houston Oilers assistant Kevin Gilbride as offensive coordinator. Gilbride will also coach the quarterbacks.

The UCF men's basketball team lost to Samford over the weekend. After making a huge comeback from a 55-41 deficit, the Golden Knights came up short in the closing seconds losing 74-73. UCF is now 2-2 in TAAC play.

The Orlando Magic continue to lead the NBA with a 29-7 record. Orlando picked up a couple of wins over the weekend downing the Hawks and the 76'ers. The Magic held the 76'ers to just 70 points, the lowest total for a Magic opponent in franchise history. The Magic will next face the hot Charlotte Hornets at home.

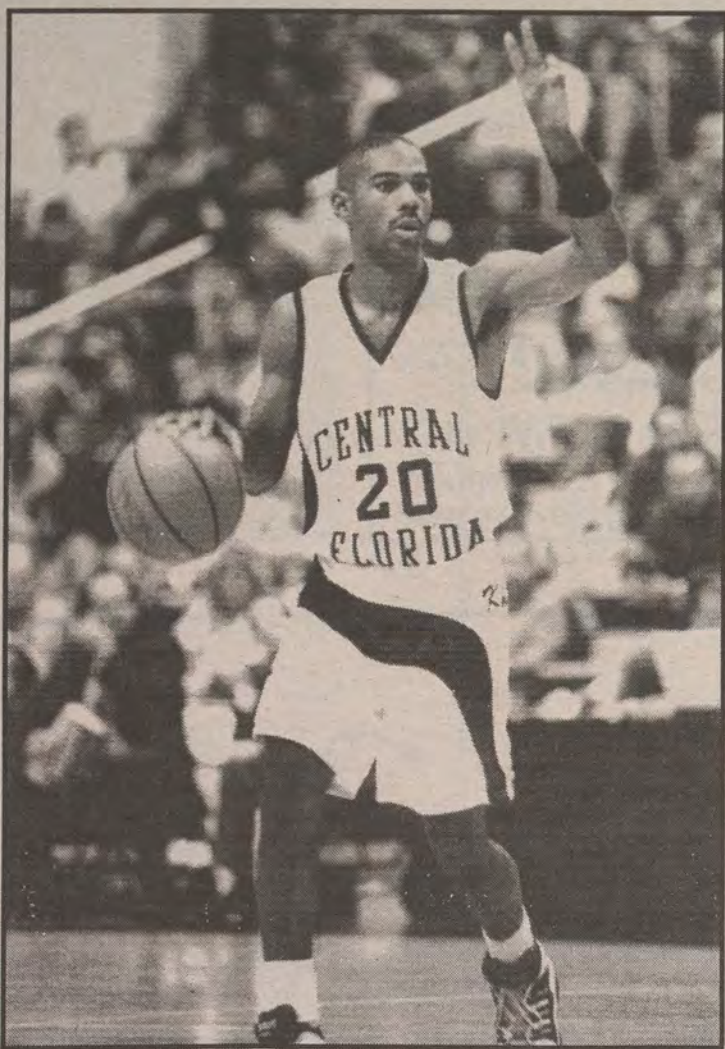
Whether or not Nick Anderson is selected to the All-Star team, he will still be a part of the All-Star weekend festivities. Anderson has been invited to participate in the three-point shootout. He is shooting 43 percent from behind the arc.

Indiana Pacers guard Reggie Miller was fined \$5,000 last week for his shoving match with New York Knicks forward Charles Smith.

Scottie Pippen has once again voiced his displeasure with Chicago and says he wants to leave no matter where he ends up. Pippen is not happy with Bulls management, particularly Bulls GM Jerry Krause.

In the rematch of a fight that not many people cared about the first time around, Vinny Pazienza beat Roberto Duran in a unanimous 12-round decision in Atlantic City.

UCF loses to Samford 74-73, goes 1-1 on trip



photo/SOLARES

Point guard Patrick Butts had 19 points in a close loss to Samford, 74-73. The team only shot 34 percent in the game.

by MIKE WHITE
Staff writer

The road trip for the men's basketball team ended in disappointment Saturday as the Golden Knights lost to Samford by the narrowest of margins, 74-73.

The Golden Knights battled back from a 14-point deficit in the second half only to lose in the final seconds. The loss puts UCF's conference record at 2-2.

Point guard Patrick Butts scored 19 points to lead the Golden Knights. The rest of the offense did little, and as a team, UCF shot a meager 34 percent from the field.

Center Chuck Roberts had his first poor game in quite a while, going only two for 11 from the field and grabbing just three rebounds. Star forward Ochiel Swaby was held to 10 points by the Bulldogs. He said he was disappointed by the team's performance.

"We expect more from ourselves," Swaby said. "We had a chance to win, but we didn't."

Swaby was even less than pleased with the officiating.

"They got all the calls, but you have to expect that on the road," Swaby said.

He added that he thought Butts

was fouled as he attempted a game-winning shot.

The Golden Knights knew they would be a target in the Trans-America Athletic Conference because of their trip to the "Big Dance" last year. Samford's response to their victory over UCF exemplified this point.

"They were acting like they won the national championship," Swaby said of Samford's post game celebration.

Samford is one of the better shooting teams in the nation, and they showed this against the Golden Knights, shooting nearly 50 percent from the field and 77 percent from the charity stripe.

The loss ended a three-game winning streak for UCF. The Golden Knights' road trip was not all bad, however, because the team defeated Georgia State, 68-61, Thursday night on the road. The Golden Knights were led in this game by Swaby, who scored 19 points. Chuck Roberts scored 14 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

At times, it seems the bad luck of the UCF football team has rubbed off on the basketball team. The Golden Knights have now lost three games in overtime and had to suffer through the first five games of the season with

see GOLDEN, page 11

Next four games will test the Magic's endurance

□ Orlando stuffed the Sixers 91-70. They improved to 29-7 overall and remain a perfect 17-0 in the O-rena.

by JASON SWANCEY
Sports editor

Saturday night's Orlando Magic 91-70 victory over the Philadelphia 76'ers saw two teams headed in different directions. The Magic had just gone 17-0 at home, 29-7 overall, and had won 13 of their last 15 games.

The Sixers, however, had just dropped 13 of their last 15 to fall to 10-24 on a miserable season. They had also become the team to score the lowest point total (70) against the Magic in franchise history.

Magic coach Brian Hill called the tough victory a "mental game," noting that it was the fifth game for the Magic in the last seven days. The Magic are no doubt tired, but at least they're not injured.

"We're a team that's been healthy; we're leading because we've been the healthiest," Hill said. "I'm very pleased with where we are at the half-way point."

The sloppy game exposed the Sixers lack of a true "big" man as Shaquille O'Neal had 31 points and 10 rebounds.

The Magic also blocked 13 shots, compared to only two for Philadelphia. But it was a huge third period that boosted the

Magic. They outscored the Sixers 29-16, opening the blowout floodgates.

Forward Dennis Scott was deadly off the bench, hitting on 3-4 from three-point range and scoring 18 points in 14 minutes. But it wasn't all good.

"We have to realize we can't play against teams like Charlotte and Chicago the way we did tonight and win," Magic forward Horace Grant said.

This Tuesday, the Magic will play Charlotte at the Orlando Arena. Point guard Anfernee Hardaway sees the Hornets game

as critical.

"We should find out a lot about ourselves during this upcoming stretch," Hardaway said.

In fact, Hardaway made a paramount point in the locker room after the Sixers game. He said that he had heard that the Hornets were already talking about how they were going to come to town Tuesday and snap the Magic's home court winning streak at 17.

"They're thinking games ahead, looking at us, and we're just taking each game as it comes," said the Magic point guard.

The next four games for the

Magic will show the character and cohesiveness of the team with the best record in the NBA.

After the team faces Charlotte on Tuesday, the Magic will play the Dallas Mavericks on the road the very next night. They then have a day off before they travel to Denver Friday to face the deceptive Nuggets.

Then comes the projected NBA Finals matchup, the Orlando Magic against the Suns at Phoenix, Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

"These are the four toughest consecutive games of the season," Hill said.

What a showoff...



photo/HASKINS

Jeremy McGrath from Team Honda once again took first place in the 250 main event last Saturday. The Orlando Supercross is the opening round of the 1995 U.S. Supercross series, and it's held every year at the Orlando Citrus Bowl in downtown Orlando.